# Statewide Technology Plan
## Update on Action Items
## June 2004

The NITC has prepared an action plan consisting of 20 items which address the NITC's four goals of supporting the development of a robust telecommunications infrastructure; supporting community and economic development; promoting the efficient delivery of government and educational services; and promoting effective planning and accountability.   The current status of the NITC's 2003-2004 action items is listed below.   A brief description of each action item is available on the NITC home page: www.nitc.state.ne.us.

| Action Items | Status as of June 2004 |
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| **Telecommunications Infrastructure** | |
| 1. Provide technical assistance for the Collaborative Aggregation Partnership for the development of statewide network services  (TP 1.1) | Phase I (Kearney, Grand Island, Omaha and Lincoln – October 1, 2003 implementation  Phase II (Norfolk, North Platte, Panhandle) – January 31, 2004 implementation.  **(June 2004: The CAP held a planning session on March 31, which identified many administrative, operational, other issues to resolve.  The outcome was a high level strategy for working with customers and managing a shared network.  The CAP meets monthly to work on these issues.)** |
| 2. Provide technical assistance for aggregation and consolidation of networks (TP 2.2) | Technical assistance for the statewide network is being provided through the Collaborative Aggregation Partnership (CAP) group. (See below for status of efforts on statewide synchronous video.) |
| 3. Support the Nebraska Network through the Network Policy Work Group (CC 3, EC 1.2, SGC 2.3) | The Interim Network Policy Work Group has met twice (August 1 and September 3).  A customer information manual, customer agreements, and other steps are underway.  A third meeting was held September 24.  The next meeting has not been set.  **(June 2004:  This group is inactive until CAP is further along in resolving the administrative and operational issues for managing a shared network.)** |
| 4. Determine statewide synchronous video network requirements (TP 2.2.1, EC 1.1) | The Statewide Synchronous Video Work Group has met **five** times (March 26, May 28, July 30, November 10, **May 26**). A comprehensive update was provided to the Public Service Commission on August 26, 2003 and a list of five first-round recommendations were presented to the Technical Panel on November 12 and the NITC on November 13.  **(May 2004: The IP Communication protocol has been approved and forwarded by the NITC, as was the Contracting Guidelines for Upgrade of Distance Learning. Several task groups [scheduling, funding, network inventory] are at work and making progress. The Video Standards Work Group was re-chartered by the Technical Panel and should have a draft standard recommendation ready by July 13, 2004. The Statewide Synchronous Video Network was** |

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| | **named by the Education Council as one of three strategic initiatives in the 2004-05 Statewide Technology Plan.)** |
| 5. Support the development of the Nebraska Telehealth Network (CC 2) | With support from the Bioterrorism Executive Committee, the Nebraska Hospital Association is including bioterrorism response in their next phase of planning. Discussions continue with the Public Service Commission and hub hospitals on the development of a telehealth network. **(March 2004: Joint purchasing of video equipment by Nebraska hospitals is being organized. A workshop on billing for telehealth services is being planned for April.)** |
| 6. Address the need for sufficient rural bandwidth EC (1.2) | Educational delegates from rural areas are participating on the Interim Network Policy Work Group, the Statewide Synchronous Video Work Group, and at least one person from the Panhandle assisted with the evaluation of Phase2 Netcom bids. The Education Council is assisting in identifying "customers" and current Internet 1 demand. **(May 2004: ESUs 10, 11, 15, 16 & 18 have joined Network Nebraska and discussions are underway with Wayne State College and Chadron State College on Tier II aggregation. Other K-12 and higher education entities have expressed interest. Network Nebraska was named by the Education Council as one of three strategic initiatives in the 2004-05 Statewide Technology Plan.)** |
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| **Community and Economic Development** | |
| 1. Encourage and support community IT development (CC 1) | • An expanded Community IT Planning Workbook has been developed.<br>• TANgents, a quarterly electronic newsletter from Technologies Across Nebraska, reaches nearly 1,500 individuals.<br>• All eight communities participating in the first year of the IT Planning and Mini Grant program have completed their technology plans. Two communities—Edgar and Crawford—have received grants to begin implementing their plans. Other communities are offering training programs and developing Web sites.<br>• Homer, Dakota City, Ord, Lexington, Maskell, and Adams County are conducting assessment activities through the 2003-2004 IT Planning and Mini-Grant program. Seward began participating in the program in March 2004.<br>• A meeting of e-commerce training providers was held on April 19. The group has identified several ways to better coordinate the delivery of e-commerce programs and to better market these programs. A steering committee will be formed to begin implementing these activities. |

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| **Efficient Delivery of Government and Educational Services** | |
| 1. Determine the business case for reinstatement of the Technology Training Grant Fund (EC 2.1) | The Education Council task group for EC2.1 has not been formed. **(May 2004: The EC 2.1 Task Group was named at the November EC meeting and has convened e-mail discussions and face-to-face meetings. They plan to conduct an online technology training needs assessment and compile the results by 9/04.)** |
| 2. Support the Nebraska eLearning Initiative (EC 5.1) | The Nebraska eLearning Initiative has been named as one of the five project components of the Network Nebraska implementation. A project team has been named to pursue sources of grant funds. **(5/04: The eLearning Initiative was named by the Education Council as one of three strategic initiatives in the 2004-05 Statewide Technology Plan.)** |
| 3. Assist in the development of value-added services for the Nebraska "Click into Education" portal (EC 5.2) | Of the three projects prioritized by the Education Council: Statewide admission form, searchable database of I.T. training opportunities, and searchable database of higher education courses and programs, progress is being made on each through the cooperation of Nebraska OnLine and the staff of the NITC. **(May 2004: A working model of the web-based admission form was demonstrated at the EC March 19 meeting and a working model of the searchable database of degree programs was demonstrated at the May 21 meeting. The Education Council prescribed follow-up work on each project with high school, college, and Coordinating Commission personnel. The searchable database of I.T. training opportunities is nearing completion.)** |
| 4. Study and promote effective synchronous and asynchronous instructional methods (EC 6.1) | The Education Council task group to concentrate on this issue was named at the EC on September 19, 2003.  The task group has been working through virtual means. **(May 2004: No additional progress reported—action item will be discontinued for 2004-05)** |
| 5. Implement *E-Government Strategic Plan* (SGC 1.1) | Of the 26 specific "Actions and Recommendations" contained in the Plan, 15 have either been completed or progress is being made. The remaining 11 have yet to have significant progress made.  (11/03: The new contract with NOL will address many items in the e-Government Strategic Plan.  The annual e-Government Conference was held on November 18.) March 2004.  Recent progress includes posting high volume forms on the Internet; 5 new interactive licensing applications since October 31 with 7 more in progress; 37 additional agencies registered to use the Public Meeting Calendar, and completion of the automatic e-mail notification feature of the Public Meeting Calendar.  **(June 2004: The State Records Board awarded three new grants to the CIO which will pay for 10 more interactive licenses or permits,** |

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| | **an upgrade to the business forms search function, and improvements to the public meeting calendar. NOL has an agreement with the Legislature's Executive Board to implement enhancements to the Legislative Bill tracking system. The State Government Council established a work group for developing a one-stop online business registration tool.)** |
| 6. Develop guidelines for electronic records retention (SGC 2.2) | The SGC created a work group, which drafted a best practices resource document for the retention of Lotus Notes e-mail and related documents. |
| 7. Recommend technical standards, guidelines, best practices, and enterprise solutions (TP 2.1, SGC 2.1) | Recommendations completed for: E-fax Guideline; Wireless Local Area Network Guidelines; Remote Access Guidelines; Lotus Notes E-mail Retention Best Practices; and Directory Services Work Group Recommendations. Work is progressing on: Blocking E-mail Attachments Guideline; Blocking SPAM Guideline; and Internet .GOV Domain Naming Convention. A work group is reviewing the E-mail Standard for State Government; and IMServices is coordinating meeting with agencies to identify other areas, which will benefit from standards and guidelines. (11/03: Recommendations completed for blocking spam and e-mail attachments. Work is progressing on the directory services project.) (03/04: The e-mail work group has finished its recommendations. The State Government Council has adopted a strategy for enterprise architecture, shared services, and standards.) **(June 2004: A proposed e-mail standard is in the review and comment period. On June 8, the State Government Council will meet with a team from NASCIO to begin work on the enterprise architecture.)** |
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| **Planning and Accountability** | |
| 1. Improve planning process and project management (SGC 3.1) | Work not scheduled to begin until the 4th Quarter of 2003. (03/04. The SGC has revised the agency comprehensive information technology-planning document for the next biennium. A proposal for giving the NITC a more proactive role in identifying strategic IT initiatives is under consideration.) **(June 2004. The Statewide Technology Plan will focus on the eight strategic initiatives that the NITC adopted in March. Agency Technology Plans and biennial budget requests will give agencies an opportunity to address the NITC strategic initiatives.)** |
| 2. Communicate with policymakers (SGC 3.2) | Ongoing. **(**11/03. Briefing for the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee was held on 11/13/03.) (03/04. Briefing held for the Appropriations Committee, other Senators, and legislative staff on 1/14/04.) **(June 2004: On April 12, the NITC sponsored a news conference and exhibition on Network Nebraska. Over 200 educators, policy makers and others were invited to** |

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| | **attend.)** |
| 3. Develop and implement security policies (SGC 4.1) | Additional security policies drafted for Wireless Local Area Networks and Remote Access. (11/3. The NITC adopted these polices at its September meeting.) (03/04. Contract signed with Omni Tech for a second vulnerability scan in March**.) (June 2004: The vulnerability scan is finished and results shared with technical staff in agencies. A meeting is set for June 10 to review the results with affected agencies.)** |
| 4. Conduct project reviews—statutory (TP 3.1) | None. |
| 5. Conduct project reviews—other (TP 3.2) | None. **(June 2004: The Technical Panel reviewed several grant requests for the State Records Board at its April meeting.)** |
| 6. Revise procedures for reviewing IT projects and purchases by state agencies (TP 3.3) | Work scheduled to begin during 3rd Quarter. (11/03. This will be part of the SGC's strategy for enterprise architecture.) |

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